



Seattle City Light

SKAGIT RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT RELICENSING PUBLIC MEETING

Seattle City Light | April 30, 2020

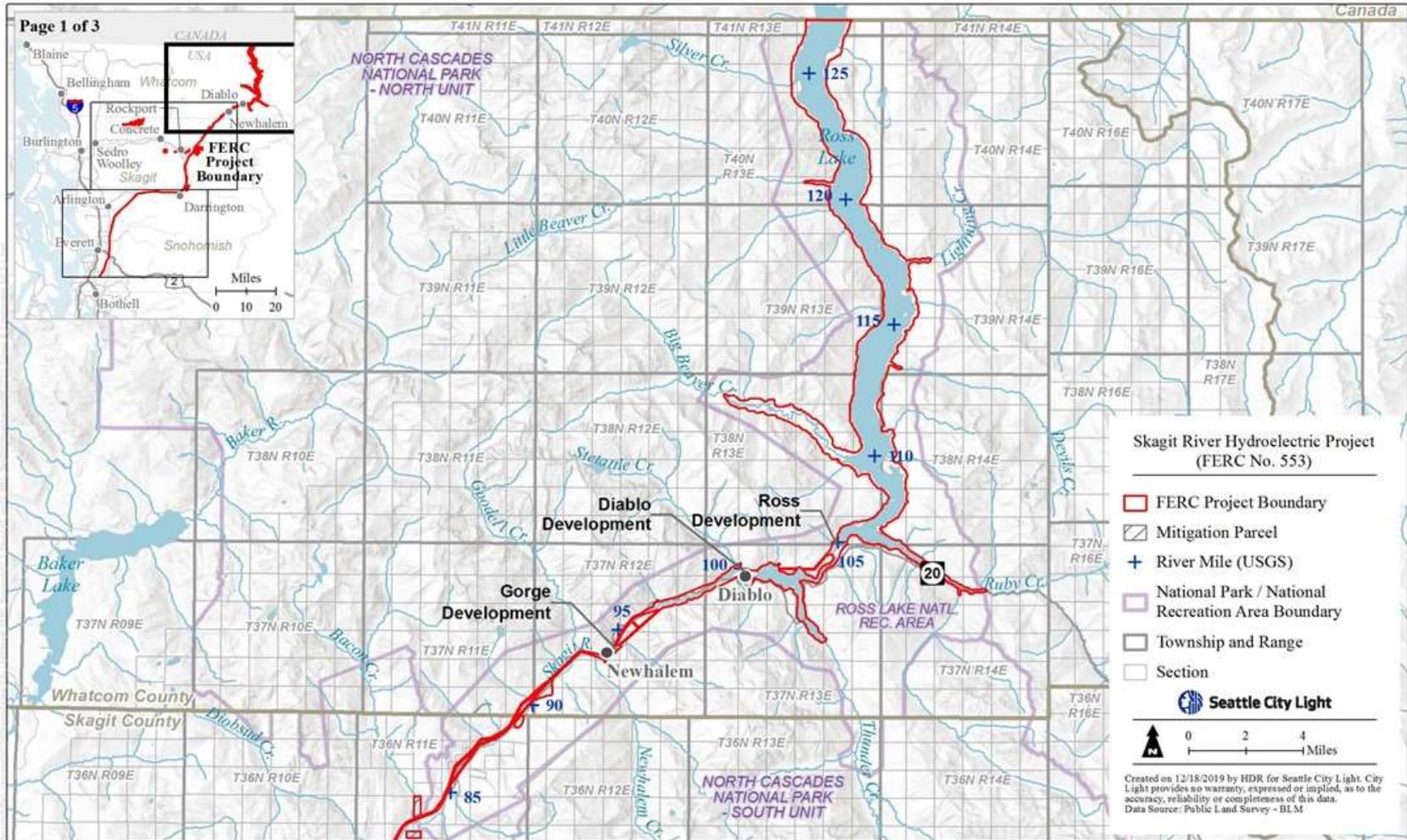
OBJECTIVES OF TODAY'S MEETING

- **Introduce** the setting and history of the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project
- **Describe** the current license and its stewardship programs
- **Provide** an overview of the FERC relicensing schedule
- **Review** studies that are proposed to inform relicensing
- **Learn** how to participate in relicensing of the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project

THE SETTING



SKAGIT RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT



SKAGIT RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT



Project facilities include:

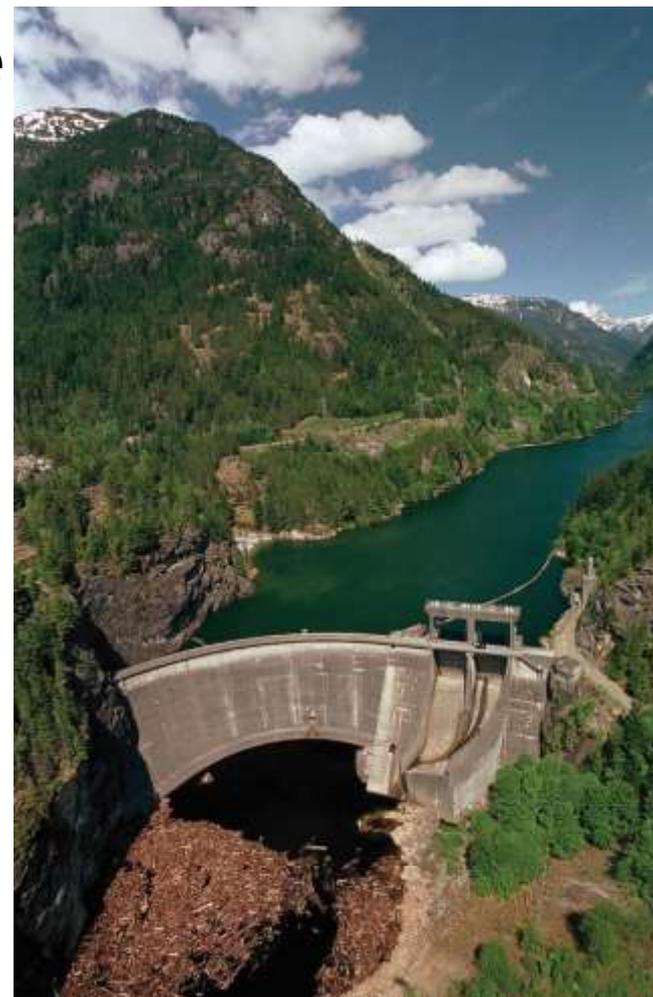
- Three dams
- Three powerhouses
- Three reservoirs
- Two company towns
- ~ 100 miles of 230kV transmission lines

Skagit Project generating facilities are located entirely within the Ross Lake National Recreation Area

Installed generating capability is 840 MW (about 20-40% of City Light's power)

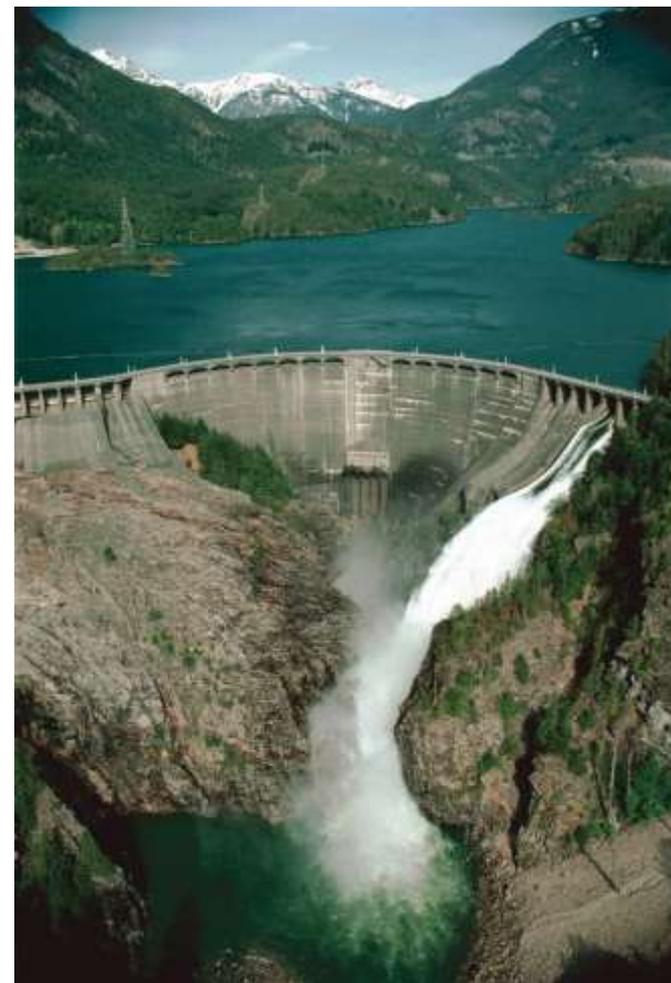
SKAGIT PROJECT - GORGE DEVELOPMENT

- 1924: Original dam & powerhouse
- 1951: Powerhouse expansion
- 1961: Gorge High Dam



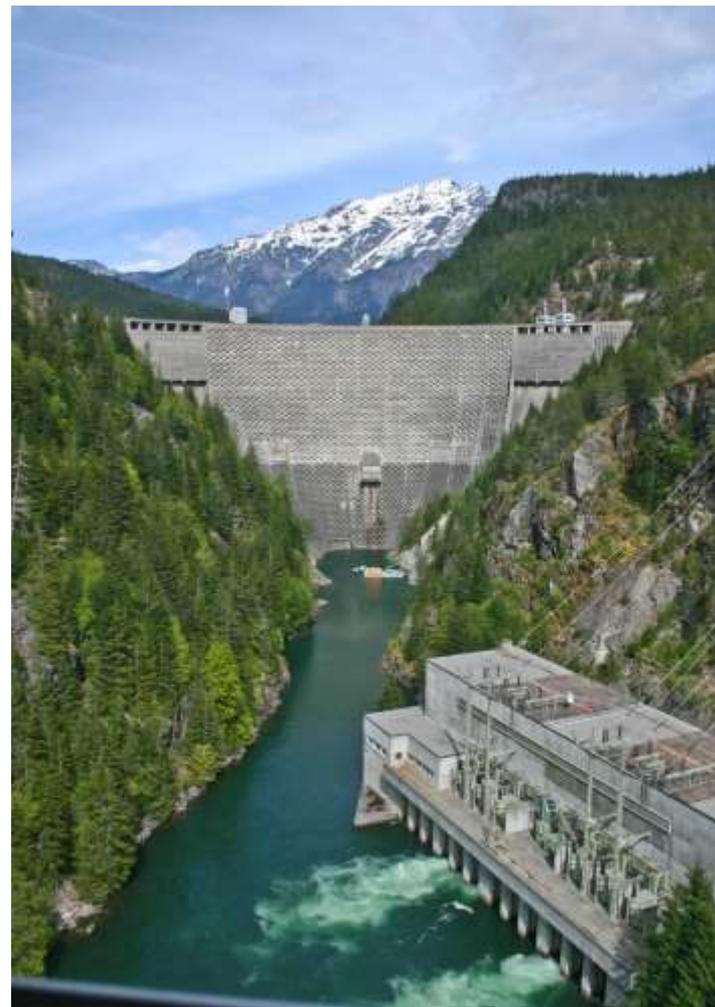
SKAGIT PROJECT - DIABLO DEVELOPMENT

- 1929: Dam completed
- 1937: Powerhouse completed

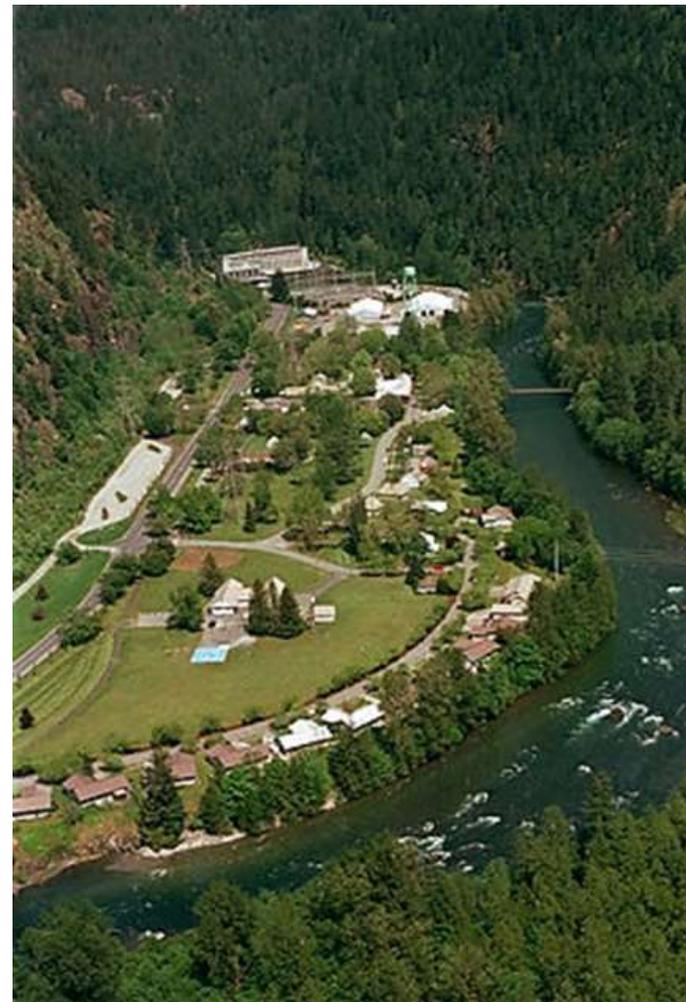


SKAGIT PROJECT - ROSS DEVELOPMENT

- 1937: Dam construction started
- 1945: Third stage completed
- 1956: Powerhouse completed
- 1984: High Ross Treaty



SKAGIT PROJECT – NEWHALEM TOWNSITE



- Structures and facilities listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Historic steam locomotive transported workers and visitors until 1954

SKAGIT PROJECT – DIABLO TOWNSITE



CURRENT SKAGIT LICENSE

- Issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 1995
- Authorizes operation of a hydropower project to produce electricity
- Includes 'modern' measures to protect the environment

FERC's role

Conducts safety and environmental inspections and enforces the conditions of the license for the duration of its term.

City Light's role

Manages the license, operates the project, and manages the recreation, cultural, aquatic, and terrestrial programs addressing resources affected by the Project.

Role of licensing participants and other interested parties ("the public")

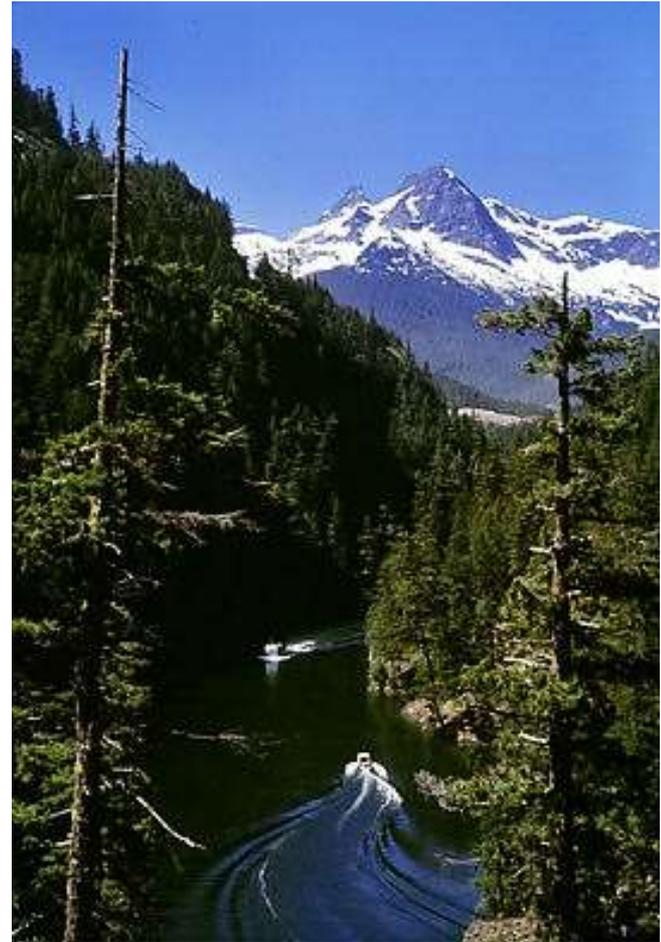
Provide comments regarding environmental measures and operational conditions to include in the license.

CURRENT SKAGIT LICENSE

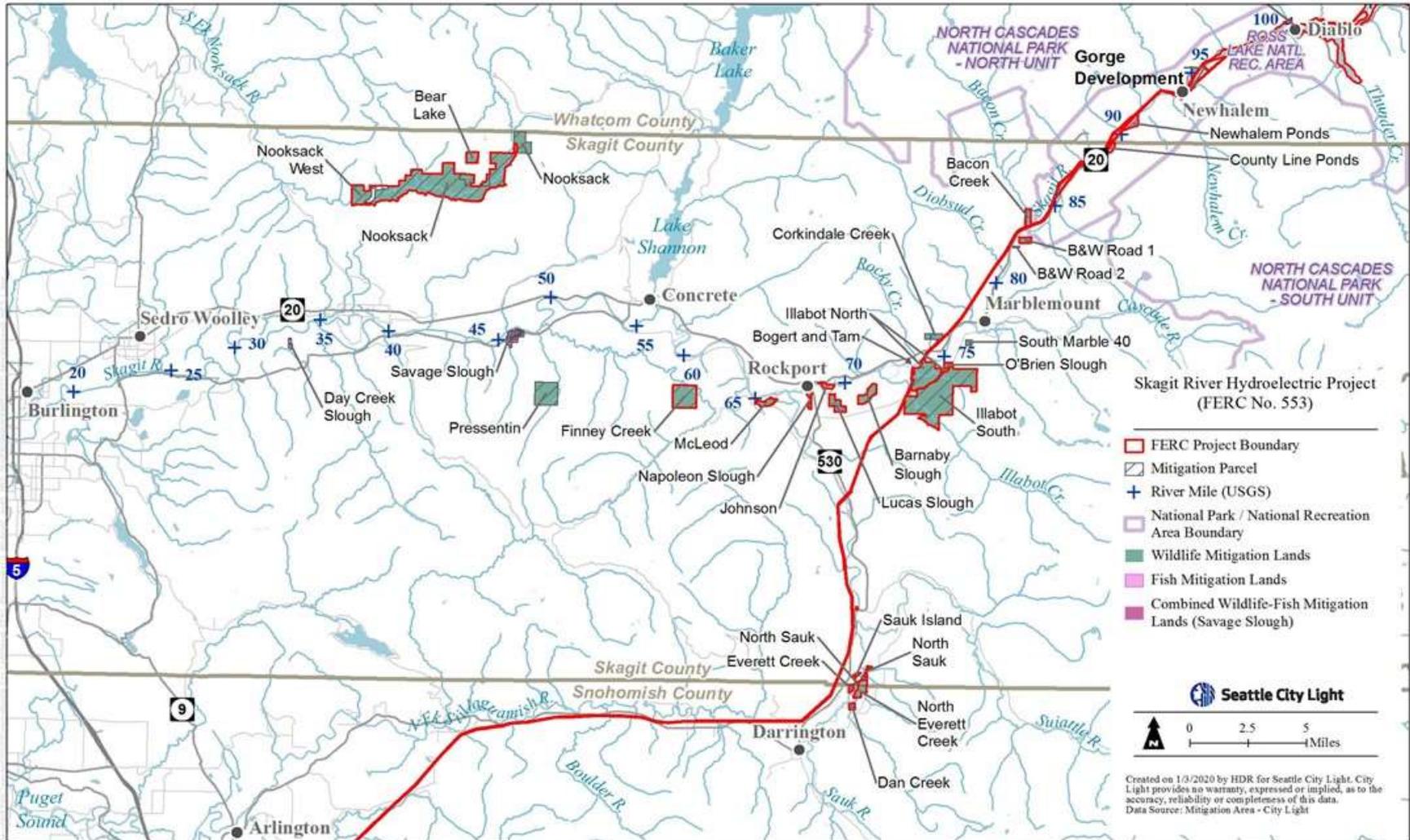
- Original 50-year license issued in 1927
- Current 30-year license expires April 30, 2025
- 1991 Settlement Agreement
- Implementation partners include the following:
 - National Park Service
 - US Forest Service
 - WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - NOAA
 - Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
 - Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
 - Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
 - North Cascades Institute
 - North Cascades Conservation Council

CURRENT SKAGIT LICENSE – SETTLEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

- Fisheries
- Wildlife
- Erosion Control
- Historic Resources
- Archaeology
- Aesthetic Resources
- Recreation
- Public Safety



CURRENT SKAGIT LICENSE – HABITAT ACQUISITION



RELICENSING SKAGIT

- The role of the FERC
- Relicensing timelines
- Seattle City Lights' approach
- Pre-formal consultations and issue scoping

THE F.E.R.C.

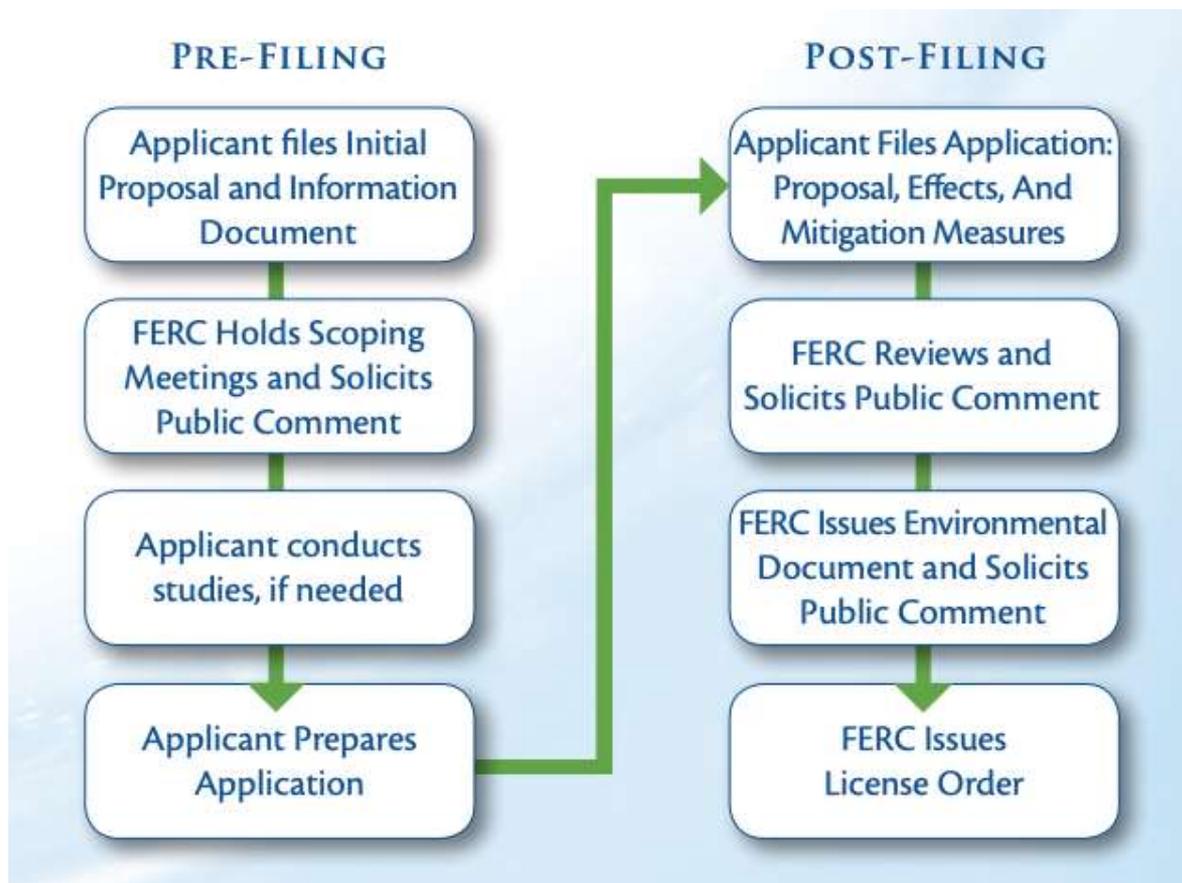
- Executive appointed Commission in the Department of Energy
- Independent oversight of the energy industry
- Promotes a strong national energy infrastructure
- Issues permits
- Enforces compliance
- Monitors Dam safety



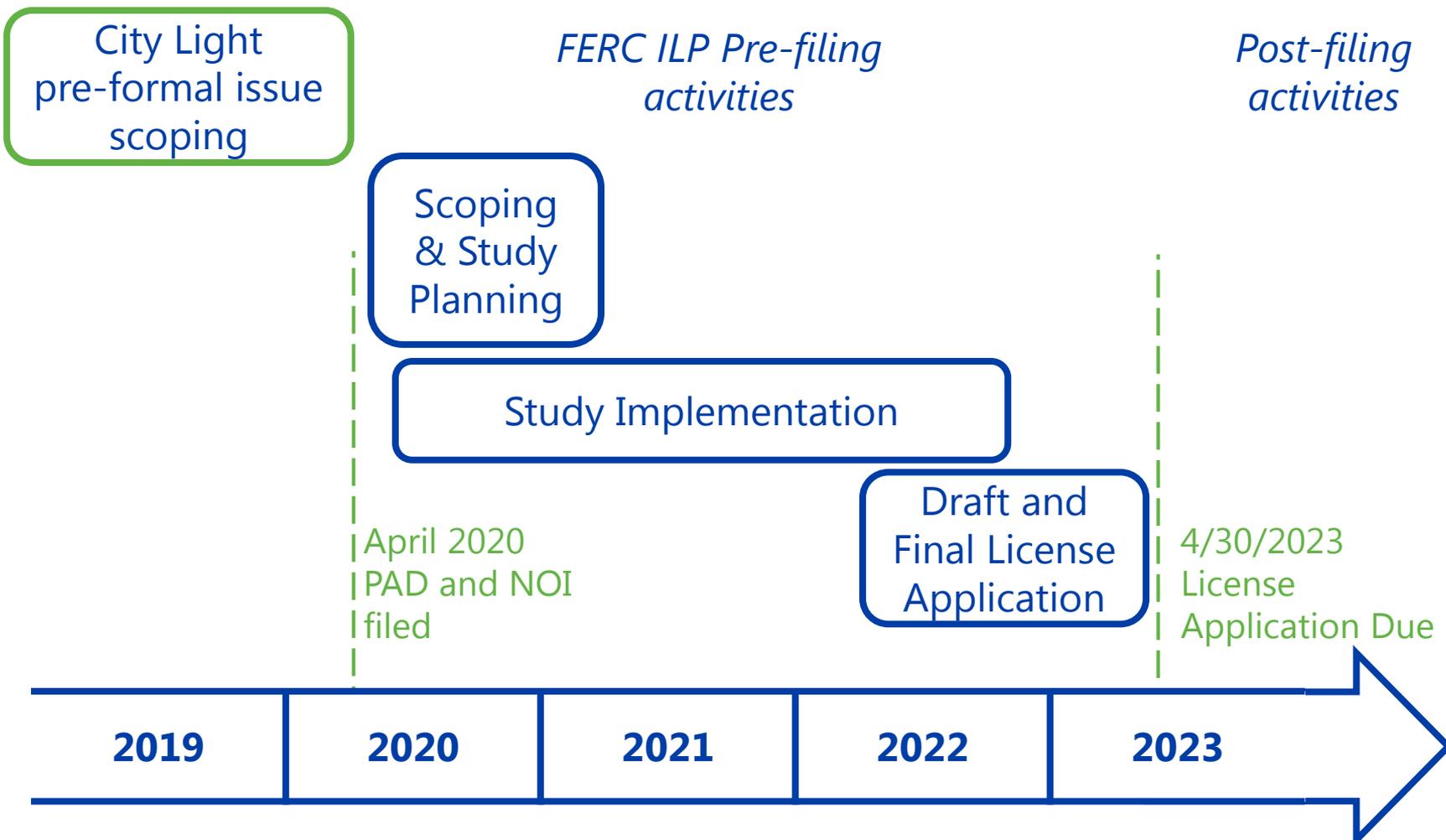
THE COMMISSION'S ROLE

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is an independent federal agency with a mission to regulate and oversee energy industries in the economic, environmental, and safety interests of the American public. Part of this mission involves promoting the development of a strong national energy infrastructure that includes hydropower, which is currently the leading renewable energy source in the United States. Congress has charged the Commission with evaluating whether proposed non-federal hydropower projects should be approved. The Commission does not propose, construct, operate, or own such projects. But it does issue preliminary permits and licenses for hydropower projects, enforces the conditions of each license for the duration of its term, and conducts project safety and environmental inspections.

FERC RELICENSING PROCESS



FERC RELICENSING – MAJOR ELEMENTS



A NEW SKAGIT LICENSE — GOAL

City Light's goal for the relicensing process is to secure a new federal operating license that allows the Project to continue to balance non-power benefits with its critical regional role producing clean, carbon-free energy and integrating renewable solar and wind resources in an energy market that is rapidly evolving to adapt to new environmental and climate realities.

OUR VALUES

Safety, Environmental Stewardship, Innovation, Excellence, Customer Care

A NEW SKAGIT LICENSE – OBJECTIVES

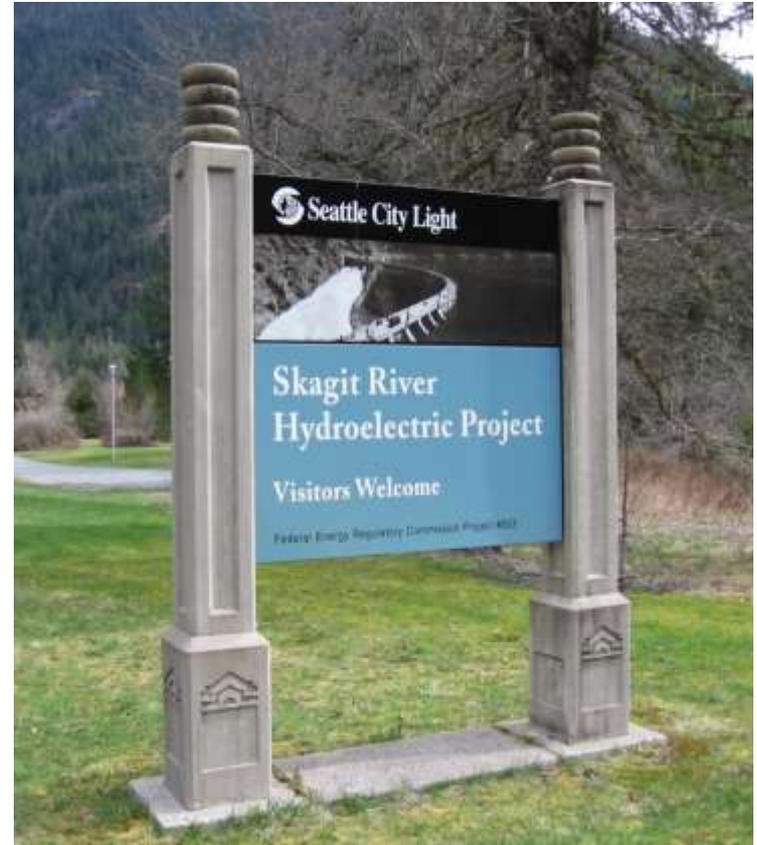
- Continue to work with project partners towards shared goals, protecting and improving resource conditions and promoting environmental stewardship.
- Identify operational measures that **optimize power generation** and non-power benefits including **flood control, downstream fish habitat protection, and Project-related recreation**.
- Define a range of operational scenarios that **optimize flexibility** of Project generation needed to adapt to **changing climate and energy market conditions**.
- Develop a suite of license measures **based on the best available information and science** that protect resources, mitigate for Project effects, and enhance resources affected by the Project.
- Identify any modifications that could **improve Project economics** to maintain affordability of electricity for City of Seattle customers.

A PHASED APPROACH



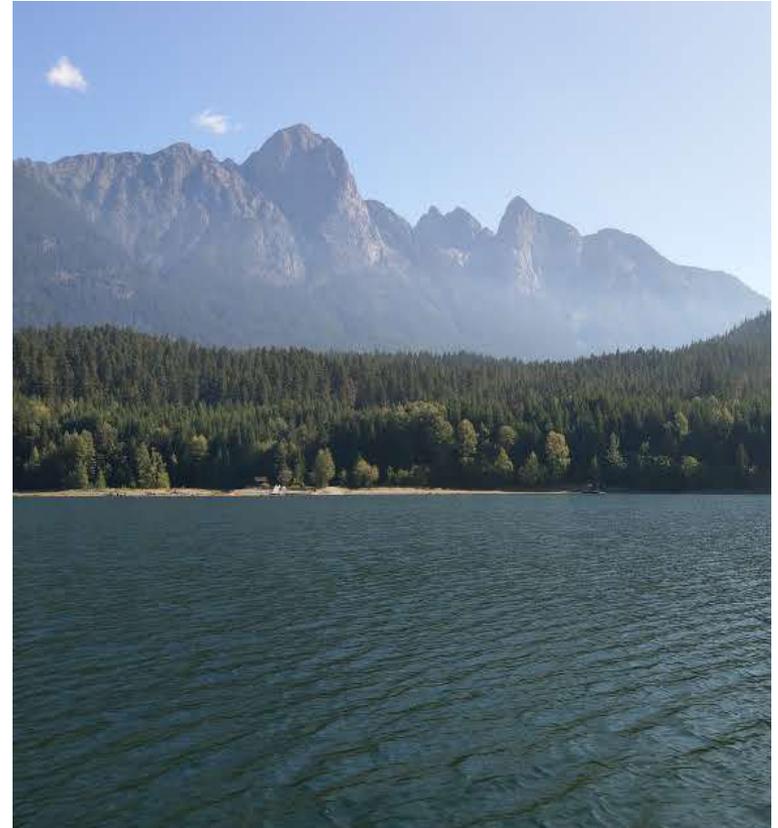
ISSUE DISCOVERY– WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- Objectives:
 - Identify data gaps
 - Potential areas of study
- Workgroups:
 - Cultural Resources
 - Fish & Aquatics
 - Terrestrial and Reservoir Erosion
 - Recreation & Aesthetics



ISSUE DISCOVERY– WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- Outcomes:
 - 21 Participating Parties
 - 30+ Voluntary Meetings
 - 90+ Issue Forms Submitted
 - 24 Proposed Study Plans



ISSUE DISCOVERY – STUDY PLAN TOPICS

- 8 Primary Issue Categories:
 - Fish Passage
 - Aquatic Resources
 - Water Quality
 - Geomorphological
 - Cultural Resource Surveys
 - Wildlife and Botanical Surveys
 - Instream Flows
 - Recreation

RELICENSING – PROPOSED STUDIES

- Fish & Aquatics

- Water Quality Monitoring
- Instream Flow Model
- Reservoir Fish Stranding and Trapping Risk Assessment
- Operations Modeling
- Landform Mapping*
- Food Web*

- Geomorphology

- Reservoir Shoreline Erosion Assessment
- Study of Erosion and Geologic Hazards at Project Facilities and Transmission Line Corridor
- Study of Sediment Deposition in Reservoirs Affecting Resources of Concern
- Study of Skagit River Geomorphology Between Gorge Dam and the Sauk River

* Asterisk notes studies in progress

RELICENSING – PROPOSED STUDIES

- Cultural Resources

- Cultural Resources Data Synthesis Study
- Cultural Resources Survey
- Gorge Bypass Reach Cultural Resources Survey

- Recreation

- Recreation Use and Facility Assessment
- Gorge Bypass Reach Safety and Whitewater Boating Assessment
- Project Facility Lighting Inventory
- Project Operation Sound Assessment

RELICENSING – PROPOSED STUDIES

- Wildlife

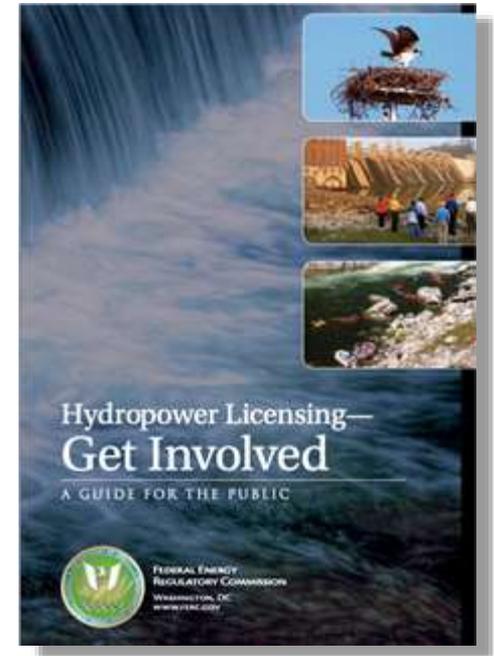
- Marbled Murrelet Study
- Golden Eagle Habitat Analysis Study
- Northern Goshawk Habitat Analysis Study
- Special-Status Amphibian Study
- Beaver Habitat Assessment

- Botanical

- Vegetation Mapping
- Wetland Assessment
- Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plant Study
- Invasive Plants Inventory

OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

- Provide comments and ask questions during public meetings
- Submit study requests and participate in work groups during study plan development
- Provide written comments on relicensing documents
- Provide written comments on FERC's environmental documents



<https://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/hydropower/hydro-guide.pdf>

GET INVOLVED – RELICENSING TOOLS

Skagit River Hydroelectric Project Resource Work Groups [EDIT LINKS](#)

Skagit River Hydroelectric Project Resource Work Groups

This is the secure website for the Seattle City Light Skagit Hydroelectric Project Collaborative Study Plan Development Process. It is intended for the sole use of Steering Committee and Resource Work Group participants. If you entered this website in error, please exit immediately.

Users are prohibited from directly or indirectly providing access to this website, or documents produced on this website, to any individual or entity not approved for access by Seattle City Light. Any intentional attempt to damage and/or delete the materials provided on this website will result in the user's immediate loss of access to the website. If you accidentally damage or delete materials, please e-mail Skagit.River@HDRinc.com immediately.

The documents created and maintained on this website do not reflect the official position or policy of Seattle City Light.

Calendar

May 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4 RA-01S Co 9:00 am CRWG	5 9:00 am - 4:00 FARWG Mee	6 9:00 am - 4:00 TRREWGW Me	7 9:00 am - 4:00 RARWG Mee	8	9

Recent Updates:

- [Steering Committee: 4/8/2020 Meeting Materials](#)
- [FARWG: 3/31/2020 Meeting Materials and Draft Study Plans](#)
- [RARWG: 3/24/2020 Meeting Materials and Draft Study Plans](#)
- [CRWG: 3/19/2020 Meeting Materials and Draft Study Plans](#)
- [TRREWGW: 3/17/2020 Meeting Materials and Draft Study Plans](#)
- [Steering Committee: 3/12/2020 Meeting Materials](#)

- Study Plan Tracking Table
- Issue Form Tracking Table
- Draft Study Plans
- Meeting Materials

2020-2021 RELICENSING TIMELINE



- Participants
- City Light
- FERC

TIMELINES TO PARTICIPATE

- **April 30th, 2020:** City Light files Pre-Application Document
- **August 28, 2020:** Deadline for public comments on PAD and study requests to FERC
- **October 12, 2020:** City Light files Proposed Study Plan (PSP)
- **January 10, 2021:** Deadline for public comments on PSP
- **February 9, 2021:** City Light files Revised Study Plan (RSP)
- **February 24, 2021:** Deadline for public comments on RSP
- **December 1, 2022:** City Light files Draft License Application (DLA)
- **March 1, 2023:** Deadline for public comments on DLA
- **April 30, 2025:** Current FERC License expires

FIND OUT MORE

- Pre-Application Document (PAD)
 - <http://www.seattle.gov/light/skagit/Relicensing/default.htm>
- PAD filed with FERC on April 30, 2020
 - To search for documents filed with FERC, visit:
 - www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp
 - Search for docket: P-553
 - To provide comments with FERC, visit:
 - <https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>

WHO TO CONTACT

For more information about how to participate in relicensing, please contact:

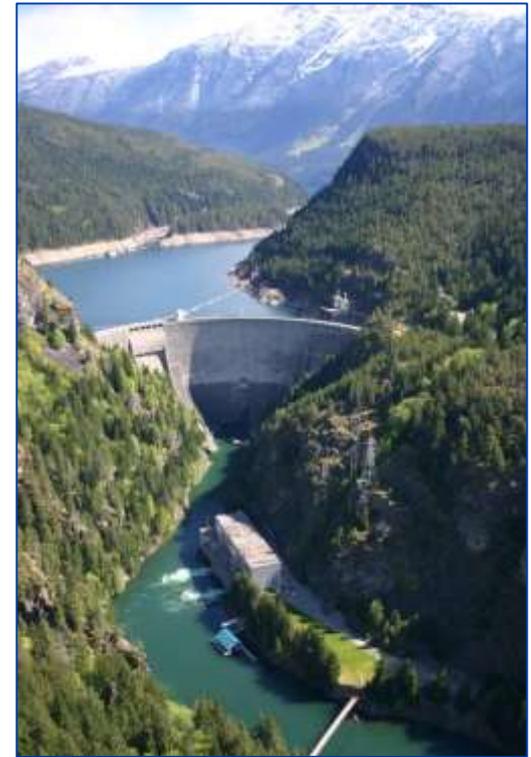
- Andrew Bearlin, Skagit License Manager, 206.684.3496, or send email to Skagit.River@hdrinc.com.

For more information on specific topics, please contact:

- Cultural Resources: Andrea Weiser [Andrea.Weiser@Seattle.gov]
- Fish & Aquatics: Erin Lowery [Erin.Lowery@Seattle.gov]
- Recreation and Aesthetics: Michael Aronowitz [Michael.Aronowitz@Seattle.gov]
- Terrestrial Resources and Reservoir Erosion: Ron Tressler [Ron.Tressler@Seattle.gov]

WHAT QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS DO YOU HAVE?

- Setting and history of the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project
- The current license and its stewardship programs
- FERC relicensing process and schedule
- Studies that are proposed to inform relicensing
- How to participate in relicensing of the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project



CITY LIGHT

OUR MISSION

Seattle City Light is dedicated to delivering customers affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible electricity services.

OUR VISION

We resolve to provide a positive, fulfilling and engaging experience for our employees. We will expect and reinforce leadership behaviors that contribute to that culture. Our workforce is the foundation upon which we achieve our public service goals and will reflect the diversity of the community we serve.

We strive to improve quality of life by understanding and answering the needs of our customers. We aim to provide more opportunities to those with fewer resources and will protect the well-being and safety of the public.

We aspire to be the nation's greenest utility by fulfilling our mission in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.

OUR VALUES

Safety, Environmental Stewardship, Innovation, Excellence, Customer Care



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